REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12, 14, 15 are amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:TJP/kaf

Enclosure:
Appendix

Date: February 21, 2001

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION
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APPENDIX

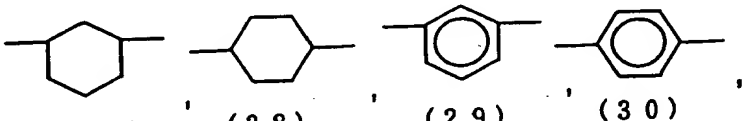
The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims 3,5, 6, 8-10, 12, 14, 15:

Claim 3.

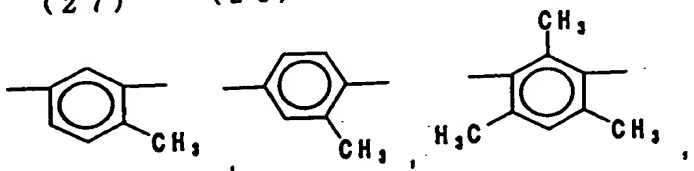
Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2,~~ where said polymer is polyamide.

Claim 5.

Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 3 ~~or Claim 4~~, where R^{10} or R^{11} in the general formula (18) above or R^{12} and R^{13} in the general formula (19a) and (19b) are independently of each other radical selected from the formula (27) – (41) below



(27) (28) (29) (30)



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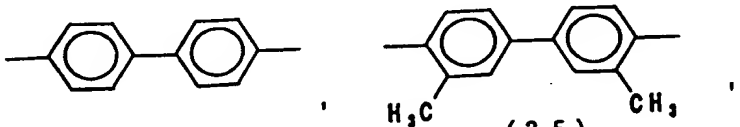
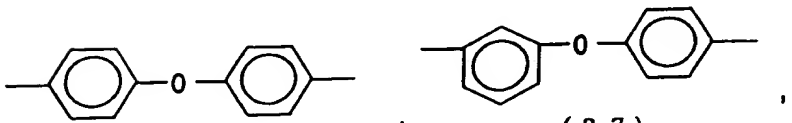
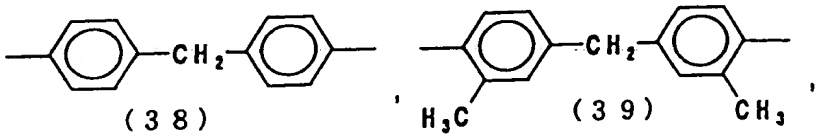


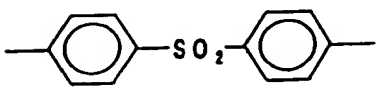
(34) (35)



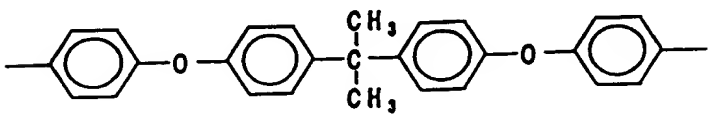
(36) (37)



(38) (39)



(40)



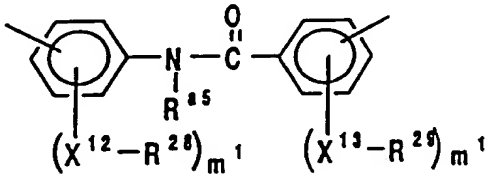
(41)

Claim 6.

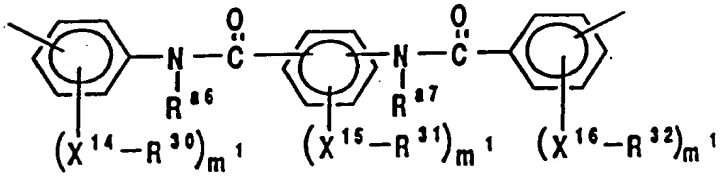
Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2,~~ where said polymer compound is polyimide precursor or polyimide obtained by chemical or heat imidization of said polyimide precursor.

Claim 8.

Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 6 ~~or Claim 7~~, where R^{27} in the general formula (42a) and (42b) above is selected from the general formula (43) – (48) below



(43)



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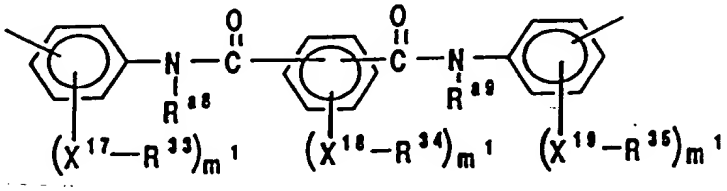

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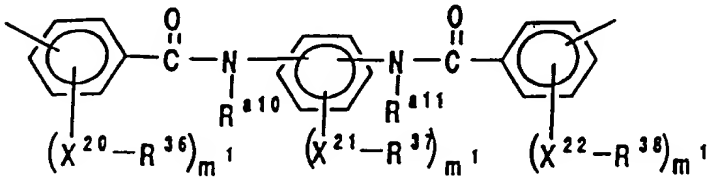
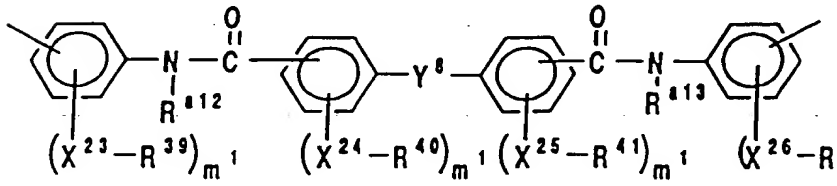
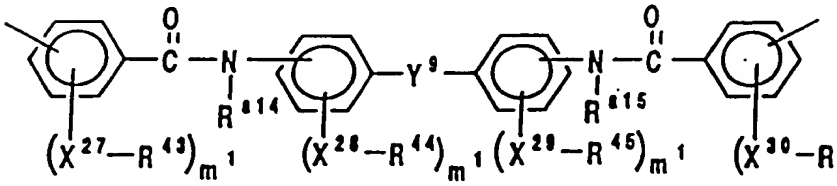


(46)



(47)

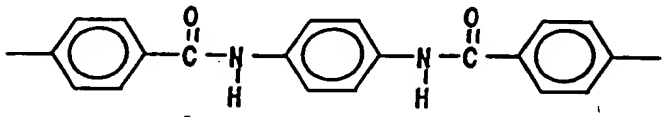


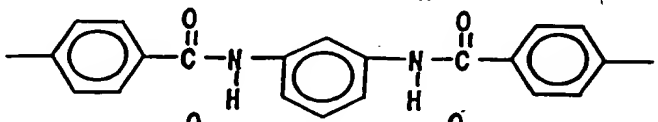
(48)

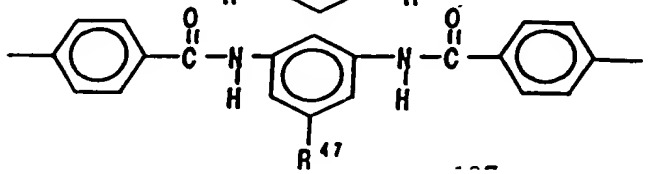
wherein X^{12} - X^{30} are independently of each other single bond, O, CO_2, OCO or CH_2O; R^{28} - R^{46} are independently of each other hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_{24} alkyl, C_1-C_{24} alkyl containing fluorine, aryl, propargyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl; R^{a5} - R^{a15} are independently of each other hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl or propargyl; Y^8 and Y^9 are O, S, SO_2, CH_2, NH, NHCO or CONH;, and m^1 is an integer of 1 - 4 with the proviso that R^{28} - R^{46} are hydrogen or halogen, then X^{12} - X^{30} are single bond.

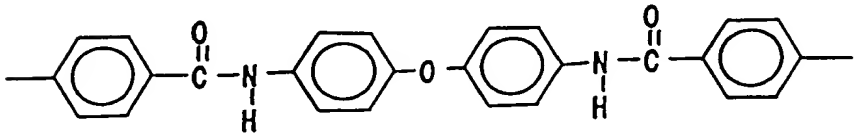
Claim 9.

Liquid crystal alignment agent according to ~~any one of~~ Claim 6 ~~through Claim 8,~~ where radical for R^{27} in the general formula (42a) and (42b) above is selected from in the formula (49) - (56) below


(49)


(50)


(51)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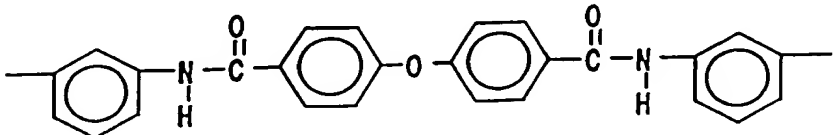
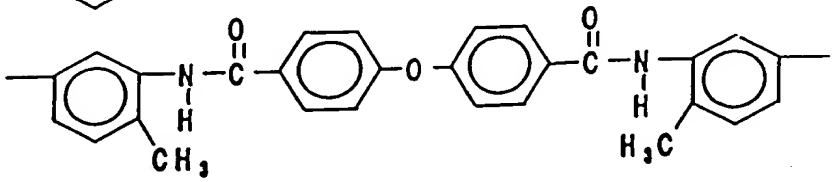
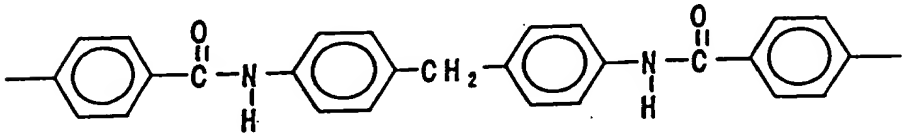

(53)


(54)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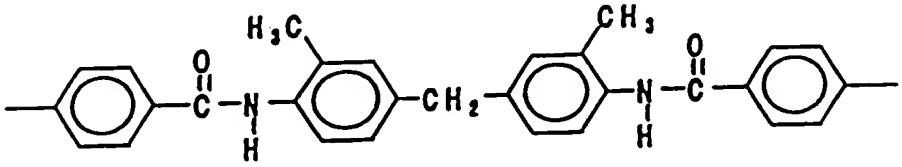
(56)

wherein R^{47} is halogen, C_1-C_{24} alkyl, C_1-C_{24} alkoxy or C_1-C_{24} alkoxycarbonyl.

Claim 10.

Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2,~~ where said polymer compound is polyurethane.

Claim 12.

Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~, where said polymer compound is polyurea.

Claim 14.

Liquid crystal device by the use of the liquid crystal alignment agent according to ~~any one of~~ Claim 1 ~~through Claim 13~~.

Claim 15.

Alignment method of liquid crystals characterized by the use of the liquid crystal alignment agent according to ~~any one of~~ Claim 1 ~~through Claim 13~~, where light or electron rays being irradiated over the thin polymer film formed on the surface of the substrate and achieving liquid crystal alignment without rubbing action.